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(71) Applicant: **NISSAN MOTOR COMPANY, LIMITED**
Kanagawa 221-0023 (JP)

(72) Inventors:

- **Asada, Tetsuya**
Hadano-shi, Kanagawa 259-1324 (JP)

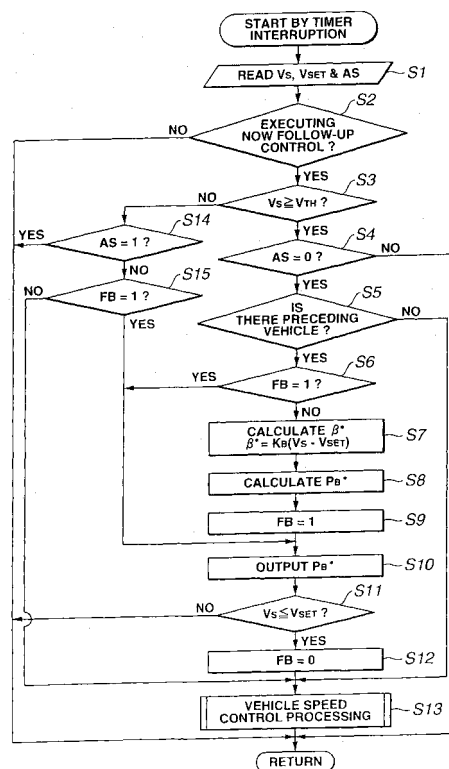
- Tange, Satoshi
Fujisawa-shi, Kanagawa 251-0015 (JP)
- Egawa, Kenichi
Tama-shi, Tokyo 206-0002 (JP)
- Higashimata, Akira
Hadano-shi, Kanagawa 257-0002 (JP)

(74) Representative: **Godwin, Edgar James**
Marks & Clerk
90 Long Acre
London WC2E 9RA (GB)

(54) **Preceding vehicle follow-up control system**

(57) The follow-up control system is arranged to calculate a target vehicle speed (V^*) for bringing a detected vehicle-to-vehicle distance (L) closer to a target distance (L^*), to control the speed (V_s) of the controlled vehicle so as to bring the controlled-vehicle speed (V) closer to the target vehicle speed (V^*), to decelerate the controlled-vehicle speed (V_s) to a set vehicle speed (V_{SET}) at the rate of a preset deceleration (β^*) when the controlled-vehicle speed (V_s) is greater than a control continuation decision value (V_{TH}) above an upper limit (V_{LMAX}) of the set vehicle speed (V_{SET}) and when an accelerating operation is terminated. This arrangement provides a smooth drive feeling to a driver even after an acceleration operation is executed during follow-up control and is terminated.

FIG.4





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 02 2411

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		23 August 2005	Wagner, H
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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